



Adamah NY
PEOPLE · PLANET · PURPOSE

Roots & Resilience - Adamah NY Environmental Journey to Israel



MAY 12 - 18, 2025

newyork@adamah.org
adamah.org/ny
25 Broadway, Suite 1700
New York, NY 10004

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Important Information

Jerusalem - Eyal Hotel

Shamai 21 Jerusalem 9463125

+972 2-623-1000

<https://smarthotels.co.il/en/jerusalem/eyal-hotel/>

Arad - Roxon Desert

112 Moab Street Arad 89100

+972 77-977-6800

<https://www.roxonhotels.co.il/roxon-desert-arad-hotel>

Tel Aviv – Grand Beach Hotel

HaYarkon St 250 Tel Aviv 63113

+972 3-543-3333

www.grandhotels-israel.com

Gabe Axler +972-52-522-3601

Shahar Sadeh +1-646-204-4271

Shanna Pittman-Frank +1-503-317-4408



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Tour Leadership



Dr. Shahar Sadeh is Adamah NY's Founding Director. Her work focuses on mobilizing the Jewish community around climate action, environmental resilience and community engagement. Shahar's passion lies in creating engaging spaces that foster challenging dialogues and partnerships across multiple sectors in civil society, government and academia. She is a scholar-practitioner in the fields of environment and peacemaking.

Previously, Shahar worked at the Jewish Community Relations Council of NY, where she served as Director of Strategic Affairs. She founded the Scholars as Bridge Builders program which enhances discussions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, provides knowledge and experiences to academics. She led many tours to Israel and the West Bank with scholars, diversity officers and university presidents.

She received her degrees from Tel Aviv University, and was a visiting scholar at Columbia University, where she taught courses on Environmental Politics in the Middle East.



Gabe Axler is Adamah's Israel Trip coordinator. He was born and raised in Chicago, and in 2010 made Aliyah with his wife to Beersheva to build an intentional Jewish community. Professionally Gabe has been involved in educational tourism for twenty years, guiding and crafting unique and memorable Israel experiences. He has a BA in History from Binghamton University and an MA in Jewish Studies. He currently lives on the Northern border in Kfar Vradim and enjoys hiking, craft beer and spending time with his three kids.

Additional Adamah Staff



Shanna Pittman-Frank is Adamah's Director of Peoplehood & Planethood Initiatives. With over two decades in nonprofit management and advocacy, Shanna works with North American and Israeli environmental NGOs, enhancing collaborative relationships across the global Jewish community. She also serves as a North American Representative for *Haim v'Sviva* (Life & Environment), the umbrella/backbone organization of the Israeli environmental movement. Her expertise in cross-sector collaboration, fund development, and program design has driven impactful initiatives domestically and internationally. Her academic training includes degrees in Social Anthropology and Environmental Science, certifications in Trauma-Informed Care, and studies in holistic medicine and public health.

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Environmental Journey to Israel



DAY 1

Monday, May 12

Welcome to Israel, Welcome to Jerusalem

- 11:45 a.m. • Meet the group in Ben Gurion Airport
- 12:30 p.m. • Neot Kedumim - Intro activity & lunch, tour and leadership workshop
- 4:30 p.m. • Check into the hotel
- 5:30 p.m. • Walk to the Old City (Jewish Quarter) and visit the Kotel
- 8:00 p.m. • Dinner at Piccolino with Yossi Abramowitz – Arava Power and Energiya Global



Overnight – Eyal Hotel, Jerusalem

DAY 2

Tuesday, May 13

Exploring Sustainability in East and West Jerusalem

- 8:30 a.m. • A walking tour of the Gazelle Valley, with Amanda Lind, Society of the Protection of Nature (SPNI)
- 10:30 a.m. • The Israeli Climate Forum, meet with Dr. Dov Khenin at Israel President's Residence
- 12:30 p.m. • Lunch and meet with Itay Peled, CEO of Food Savers (a collaboration with Muslala)
- 2:30 p.m. • Visit East Jerusalem - Meet with Tareq Nasser, Co-Founder of Sinsila Center
- 4:30 p.m. • Currents events debrief (speaker TBA)
- 6:00 p.m. • Group discussion and debrief
- 7:00 p.m. • Dinner at the hotel
- 8:30 p.m. • Optional – Explore Shuk Mahane Yehuda nightlife



Overnight – Eyal Hotel, Jerusalem

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Environmental Journey to Israel



Wednesday, May 14

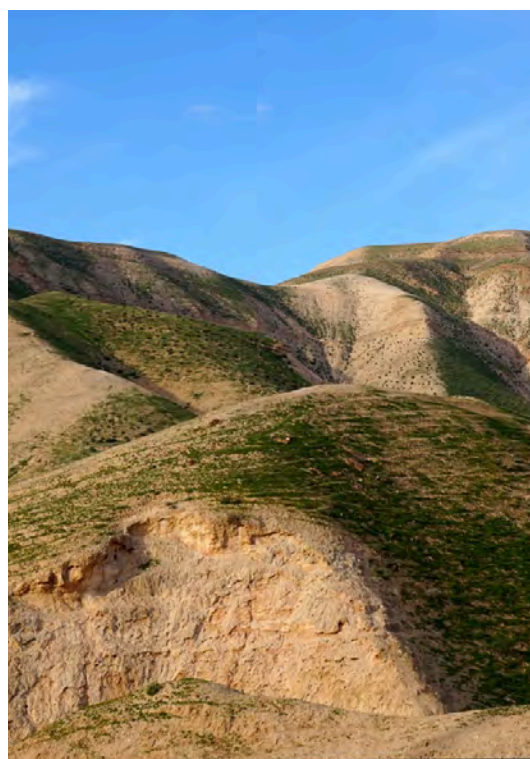
DAY 3

Water Security and Desertification – the Jordan River and the Dead Sea

- 8:30 a.m. • Travel to Qasr el Yehud Baptism Site at the Jordan River –
Meet with Nada Majdalani, Palestinian Director, EcoPeace
- 10:30 a.m. • Meet with Oded Rahav, CEO of Dead Sea Guardians at
Kibbutz Kalya
- 11:00 a.m. • Tour the Dead Sea and explore the sinkholes phenomenon
- 2:00 p.m. • Lunch and swim in the Dead Sea
- 5:15 p.m. • Meet with Fareed Mahamid and tour the off-grid Bedouin
school in El Furaa together with Dr. Clive Lipchin from the
Arava Institute
- 7:15 p.m. • Dinner at the hotel
- 8:30 p.m. • Stargazing program



Overnight – Arad – Roxon Hotel



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Environmental Journey to Israel



Thursday, May 15

DAY 4

The Negev - Sustainable Desert Community
and Visiting the Nova

- 8:30 a.m. • Meet with Sivan Cohen Shachari, Desertech CEO
- 10:45 a.m. • Tour and Lunch in Wadi Attir, Sustainable Desert Bedouin Community, and meet with Nimrod Rogel, CEO
- 1:45 p.m. • Visit the Nova Festival site
- 3:30 p.m. • Visit Sderot and meet with Avi Dabush, CEO of Rabbis for Human Rights, peace activist and a local resident
- 5:15 p.m. • Dinner at the hotel
- 7:30 p.m. • Group debrief
- 8:15 p.m. • Group debrief



Overnight – Grand Beach Hotel – Tel Aviv



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DAY 5

Friday, May 16 The Israeli Environmental Movement & the City that Never Sleeps



- 9:15 a.m. • Tour Park Hayarkon with Rinat Guy, Chief Innovation Officer, Tel Aviv Municipality
- 11:00 a.m. • Meet Yael Paran Cohen from “Sun for Everyone” (rooftop solar project)
- 1:00 p.m. • Group activity and a tasting tour at Shuk HaCarmel
- 3:30 p.m. • Shabbat prep / free time
- 6:00 p.m. • Welcoming Shabbat together
- 7:00 p.m. • Shabbat dinner with Joe Gamse, Jewish Climate Trust and guests in the hotel

Overnight – Grand Beach Hotel – Tel Aviv



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DAY 6

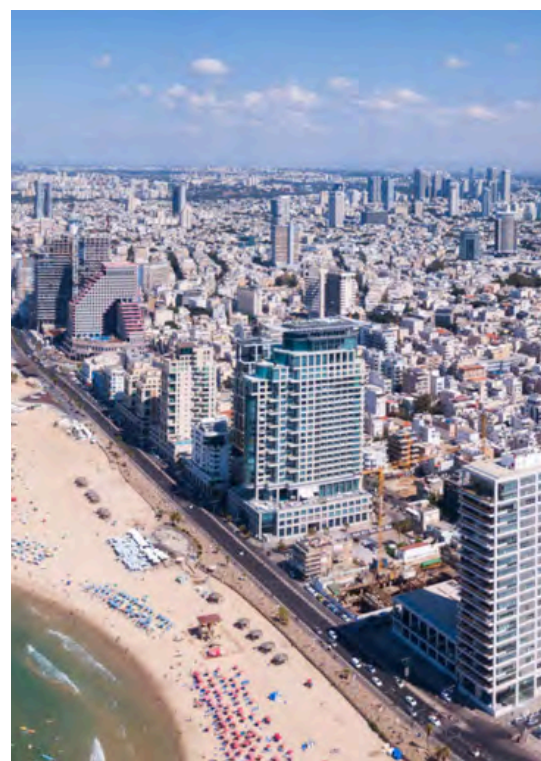
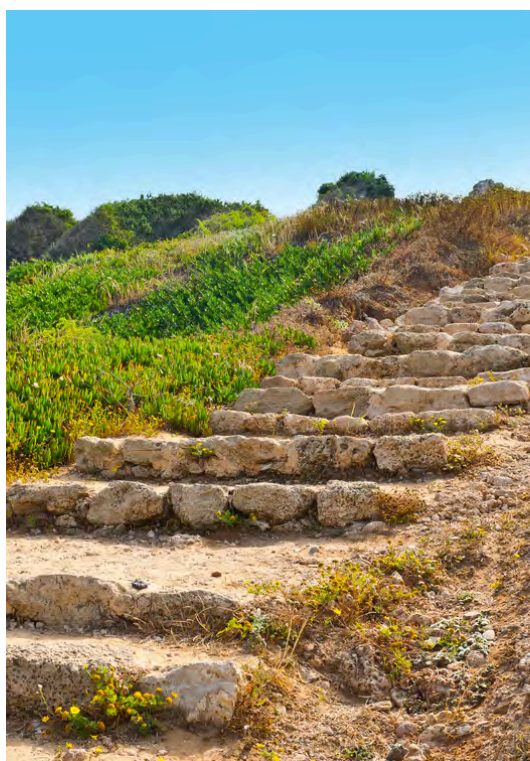
Saturday, May 17
Joyful Shabbat

- 9:30 a.m. • Shabbat services / spiritual practice options: yoga, meditation
- 10:30 a.m. • Torah of the Earth - Text study and conversation with Dr. Jeremy Benstein, the Heschel Center
- 12:00 p.m. • Lunch at the hotel
- 1:00 p.m. • Judaism and the Environment in Israel – How the Heschel Center approaches environmental change
- 3:00 p.m. • Free time
- 6:00 p.m. • Seuda Shlishit
- 8:15 p.m. • Havdallah



Independent Evening

Overnight – Grand Beach Hotel - Tel Aviv



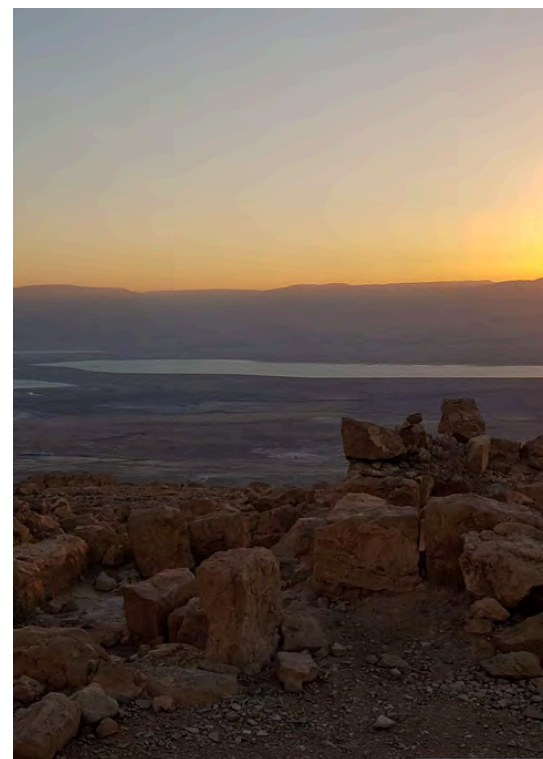
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DAY 7

Sunday, May 18
Urban Sustainability & Climate Tech

- 9:00 a.m. • Walking tour with Dr. Boaz Kedar, Sustainability Manager for the Tel Aviv Municipality
- 12:00 p.m. • Shapira Garden & Lira Shapira - Meet with the founders
- 1:30 p.m. • Lunch in Cafe Shapira
- 4:00 p.m. • Meeting with Investor Forum of Planetech
- 6:30 p.m. • Final Dinner & Debrief at Meshek Barzilay
- 8:35 p.m. • Travel to Ben Gurion Airport



Participant Bios



Ana Levy-Lyons is a writer, speaker, and rabbinical student in the Aleph Ordination Program. She holds an MDiv from the University of Chicago Divinity School and served as a Unitarian Universalist minister for almost two decades. She is the author of *No Other Gods: The Politics of the Ten Commandments and The Secret Despair of the Secular Left*. Ana's work focuses on cultural transformation and religious-ecological consciousness. She has developed and taught courses such as *Justice and Ecology in the Hebrew Bible*, led an experimental shmita group and has participated in grassroots environmental activism in NYC. She was a GreenFaith Fellow and took part in Union Theological Seminary's Ministry in the Time of Climate Change program.



Anneliese Zausner-Mannes' work is at the intersection of community, education, and environmentalism as an education and program specialist at Big Reuse NYC. She has a background in science education and nonprofit environmental work. After 15 years of teaching math and science in the U.S., Asia, and Europe, she transitioned to environmental justice advocacy. She co-founded Nurture BK Compost, a community-led initiative promoting composting and waste reduction. She collaborates with NYC Council members to advance sustainability programs and environmental justice efforts. Anneliese specializes in community-based climate action, circular economy solutions, and youth education in sustainability.



Bonnie Hagen is the co-founder and principal at Bright Energy Services, an energy efficiency consulting firm dedicated to helping commercial, institutional, and multi-family buildings transition to more sustainable energy solutions. She has extensive experience in securing financial incentives for energy-efficient projects and guiding organizations through regulatory compliance. Bonnie works closely with Jewish institutions and other nonprofits to integrate climate-conscious facility management practices. Her focus is on reducing emissions, increasing operational efficiency, and expanding access to clean energy solutions. Bonnie currently serves on the City of White Plains' Conservation Board and served on the City's Sustainability Committee. Bonnie is a Board Member of UJA-Federation of New York Westchester Business and Professional Division, Westchester Jewish Council where she chairs the Greening Committee, and Congregation Kol Ami where she is the Chair of the Green Team.



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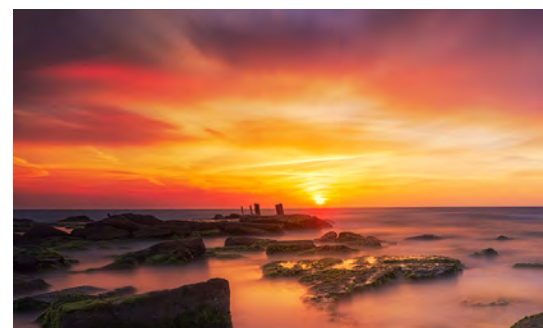
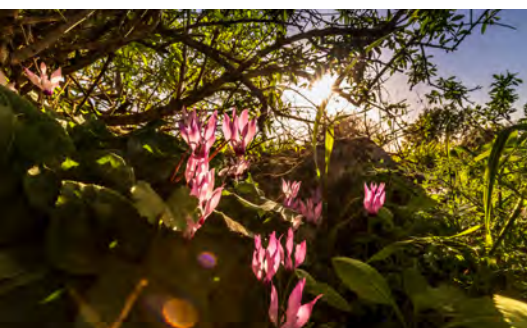


Brett Cohen is chair of the Adamah national board. He lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with his wife Heidi. Brett retired from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in 2021, after spending most of his career as a National Office Partner in the Accounting Services Group. Brett holds a bachelor's degree in accountancy from the State University of New York at Albany.

Brett's journey with Adamah began in 2007, when he and his entire family took part in their first Hazon NY Bike Ride (Hazon was the predecessor organization to Adamah). That ride kicked off a deep and lasting connection to the organization's mission of sustainability, Jewish learning, and community. Brett also serves on the board of the Friends of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, and as a trustee at Congregation B'nai Israel in Millburn, NJ. You can find Brett frolicking around Central Park as part of the Central Park Conservancy landscaping team or lending a hand at the Monday Night Hospitality soup kitchen. He's an avid cyclist, a passionate environmentalist, and always up for a good bagel and a long ride.



David Kahn is the Global VP, Cloud ERP Customer Success Leader at SAP, with over 27 years of experience in IT transformation, customer success, and supply chain solutions. He drives customer adoption, value realization, and renewals for SAP's ERP, Supply Chain, and Finance Solutions. He holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia. Beyond his professional work, David has been actively involved in environmental advocacy since high school, launching neighborhood and school recycling programs and spearheading sustainability initiatives in Jewish communities. He founded the Shul Green Team at RJC, helped standardize Green Kiddushes, and served on the board of Canfei Nesharim. Currently, he is Treasurer of Grow Torah, an organization that develops experiential and environmental Torah education programs for Jewish institutions. Passionate about sustainability, David is eager to explore Israel's innovative environmental technologies and regional climate solutions.



Participant Bios



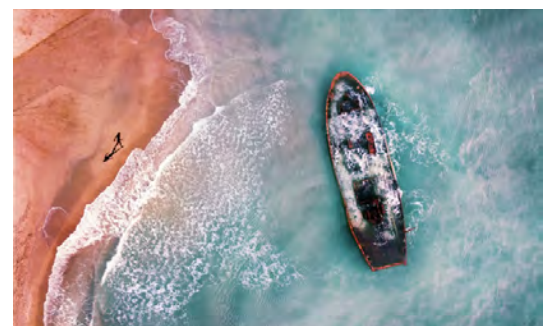
Eli Kintisch is a climate journalist, filmmaker, and educator specializing in environmental media. He serves as the Ted Turner Professor of Environmental Media at George Washington University and works for PBS NewsHour and Science magazine where he's a correspondent covering climate science and the environment. Eli's reporting has taken him across the globe, covering carbon capture, geoengineering, and climate adaptation. His expertise lies in using storytelling to make complex environmental topics accessible to the public. He is eager to explore how Israel communicates its sustainability efforts and climate innovations.



Elizabeth Stein is the State Policy Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law. She specializes in state energy policy, advocating for climate-conscious utility regulations and supporting legislative efforts to decarbonize the energy sector. Her research includes market-based climate solutions and energy justice policies. She has been involved in legal and policy analysis related to NYC's Local Law 97 (Building Decarbonization Act), helping ensure that local and state governments implement effective sustainability measures. Before joining Policy Integrity, she was Lead Counsel, Energy Transition, at Environmental Defense Fund. She is currently serving as co-chair of the Energy Committee of the NYC Bar Association and as a board member for Earth Day Initiative, an entity that spearheads major Earth Day events in New York as well as year round environmental educational programming.



Heather Engelman is part of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY, working as Instructional Support for Sustainable Resources Management, and temporarily, as Interim Chief Diversity Officer. As interim CDO, she liaisons with SUNY, student organizations, employee affinity groups and offices across campus, building bridges and collaborations, to strengthen community amongst those tackling pressing environmental challenges. Heather is an integral member of ESF's Inclusion, Diversity, Access and Equity Committee, and is part of the college's new Interfaith Advisory Council. She has served as the Youth and Education Vice President of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas, and Secretary of the Board, Syracuse Community Hebrew School. Heather is a Certified Forester, member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE).



Participant Bios



Michael Gilbert is an energy and sustainability professional with expertise in technology, policy, and finance. At Fairstead, multi-family real-estate owner/operator/developer, he serves as Executive Director of Energy & Sustainability, optimizing both sustainability and economic performance across the entire real estate portfolio. He also serves as the Managing Director of Fairstead Ventures, a corporate venture capital (CVC) firm focused on Cleantech, PropTech, and Decarbonization solutions for the built environment and its residents.

Previously, he led energy efficiency and demand management programs at Con Edison and held various corporate and consulting positions in ESG, sustainability, energy, and environmental management. Michael is a frequent conference speaker and has lectured at Cornell, Columbia, and in Israel and India on Cleantech, PropTech, Real Estate, Corporate Venture Capital, and ESG. He holds a BS in Agricultural Engineering, an MS in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University, and an MBA from UConn. He serves on the White Plains Sustainability Committee, manages his synagogue's building, and holds certifications as a Professional Engineer, Certified Energy Manager, and Certified Energy Auditor.



Mindy Germain is the founder of Eco Leap, a firm dedicated to driving behavior-based decarbonization and sustainability solutions. With over 20 years of experience in environmental advocacy, she helps municipalities and businesses achieve climate resilience and greenhouse gas reduction goals. Eco Leap's approach combines climate science, behavioral research, and community engagement, particularly in at-risk communities facing air quality and extreme weather challenges. A recognized leader in New York's Climate Smart Communities program, Mindy has been honored as a NY State Woman of Distinction and Nassau County Trailblazer of the New Millennium. She also serves as Commissioner of the Port Washington Water District and Vice President of Residents Forward, working to enhance environmental sustainability in her hometown. Mindy also volunteers as the Director of Education for an environmental nonprofit, where she has planned and executed three Youth Climate Summits, with a fourth scheduled for this March. Additionally, she has volunteered extensively for environmental programs at her synagogue, fostering sustainability within the Jewish community.



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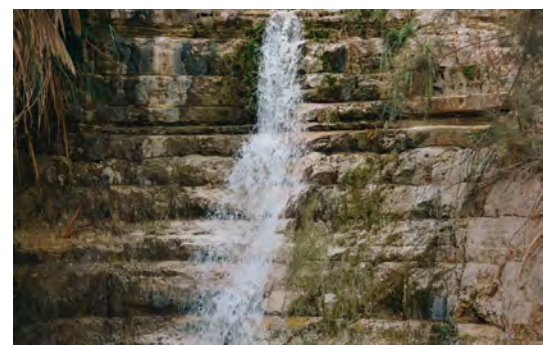
Rachel Landsberg is a Jewish climate educator and activist deeply involved in synagogue-based sustainability efforts. She was an educator at Beit Rabban and Heschel Jewish day schools for two decades before deciding to pursue full-time engagement in the climate movement. She is currently a lay leader at JCAN NYC, serving as a Climate Torah teacher and a member of the legislative team. She co-founded and co-facilitates a Dayenu Circle based out of her synagogue, Darkhei Noam on the Upper West Side. At her synagogue, she also co-chairs the Climate Action Committee and mentors Darkhei Noam's Jewish Youth Climate Movement kvutzah.

Rachel has been learning, teaching, volunteering, lobbying, developing and sharing Climate Torah, recruiting fellow Jews to the climate movement, and building community around climate issues. She studied at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem and the Drisha Institute.



Rand Manasse is the owner of Green Lane Partners, a private equity company specializing in Cleantech. His firm owns multiple solar farms and previously owned a solar installation company. Recognized by Who's Who in America for his expertise in renewable energy, finance, engineering, and technology, Rand brings a unique blend of business development and financial strategy to his work, optimizing operations, increasing revenue, and ensuring financial stability.

He currently serves as Board President of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC), a 60-year-old organization that unites sustainability groups to drive collective impact. He is also a member of New Rochelle's Environmental and Natural Resource Advisory Committee (ENRAC), contributing to the city's environmental sustainability efforts.



Participant Bios



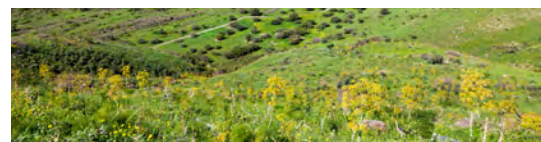
Robert Politzer is the Founder & CEO of GreenStreet Global, Inc a NYC-based company focused on providing innovative green building and energy efficiency solutions to reduce operating expenses and increase net operating income for commercial real estate properties. Robert's expertise focuses on building operational efficiency, energy optimization, and compliance with evolving decarbonization regulations, particularly those like NYC Local Law 97. A long-time advocate for achieving net zero goals and environmental responsibility, Robert's work aligns with the increasing global focus on sustainable building practices, contributing to economic and ecological goals. With nearly 30 years of experience, he has been instrumental in shaping NYC's sustainability sector. His company's projects span LEED consulting, renewable energy integration, and decarbonization efforts. Robert has served as Chair of the NYS Sustainable Business Task Force and remains an advocate for advancing clean energy in urban development.

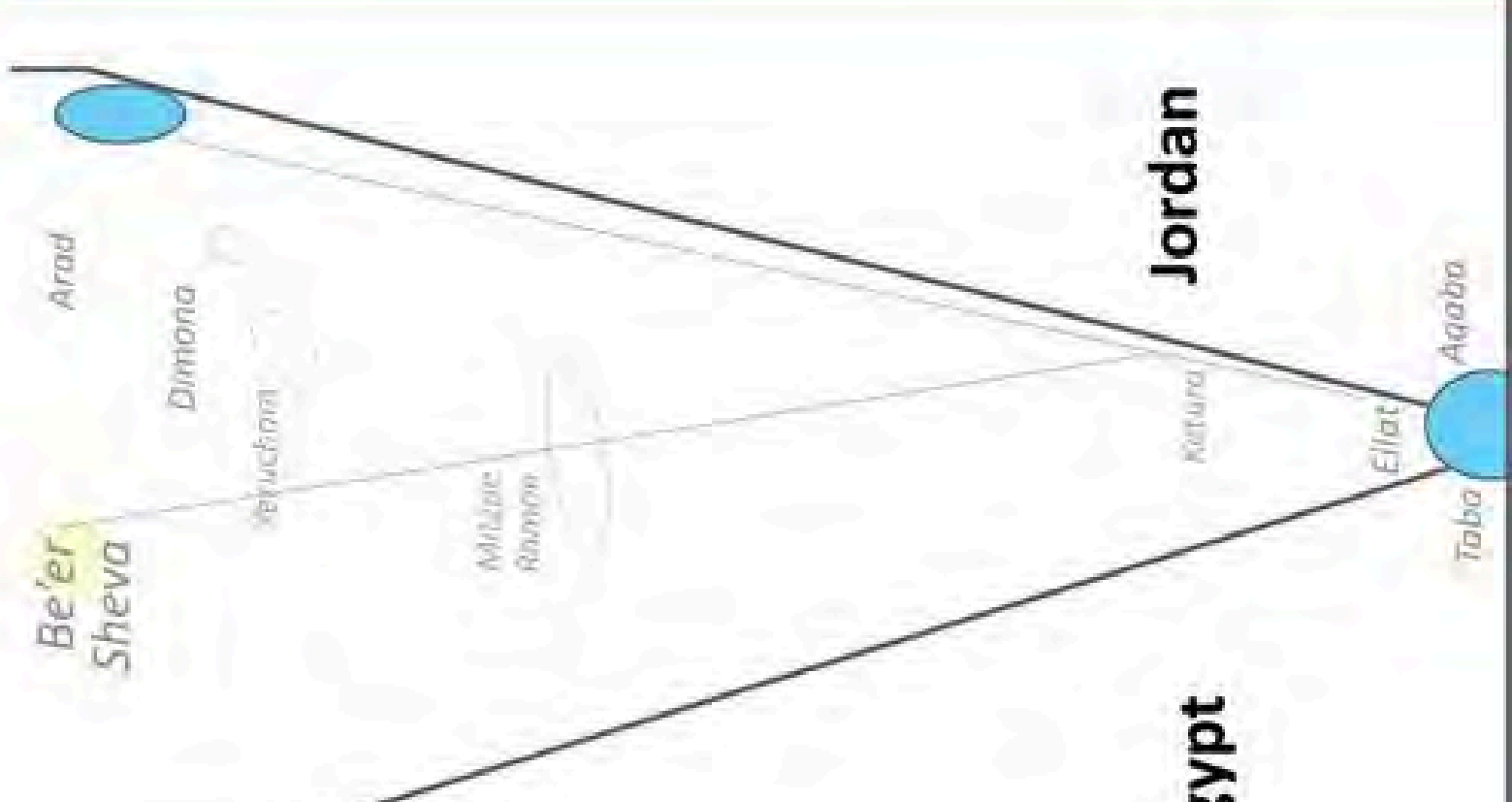


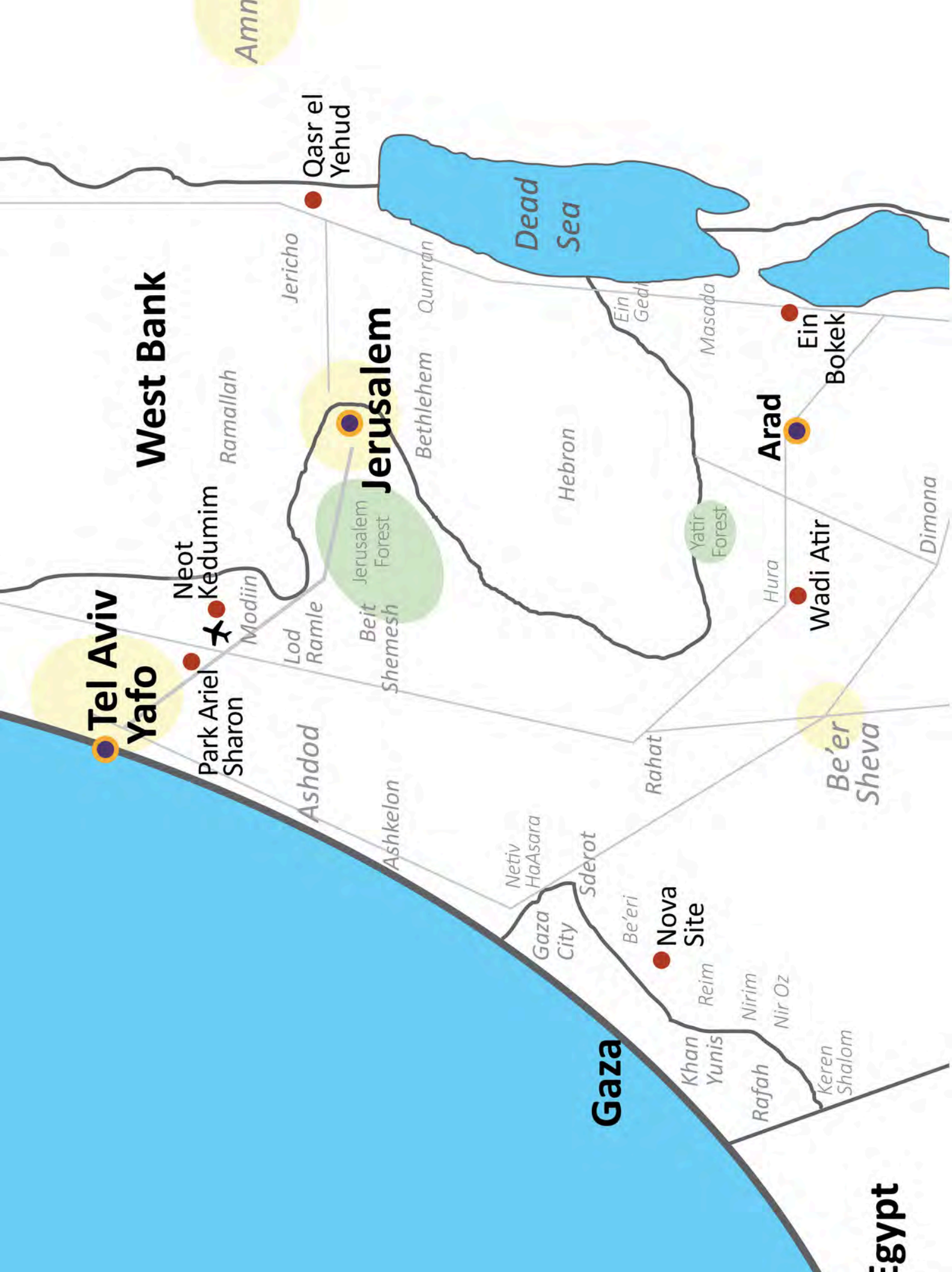
Tiana Neshama Gianci, DrPH, is a public health professional specializing in environmental health. She is the founder of Health Bridges for Peace, a new NGO that aims to launch joint environmental health projects as tools for peacebuilding. She holds a master's degrees in Conflict Management and International Development from Johns Hopkins University. Currently, she works as a Subject Matter Expert on the cancer team at the Washington, DC Department of Health, and previously served in key public service roles, including as Baltimore City's Safety Czar during COVID-19. Tiana is deeply connected to the Jewish community through Oseh Shalom in Laurel, Congregation Shir Shalom in Buffalo, and Camp Havaya. She brings a heart-centered, justice-driven approach to her work at the intersection of health, environment, and peace.



Tracy Stein is a visiting lawyer with the Environmental Law Institute, where she has specialized in international environmental policy, environmental peacebuilding studies and research, and global conservation initiatives. She has provided pro bono assistance to leading environmental organizations, including the New York League of Conservation Voters and NYU's Institute for Policy Integrity on a range of local and administrative environmental policies. Tracy is passionate about other non-profit work. She provides ongoing pro bono legal counsel on immigration and asylum cases for Neighbor's Link of Northern Westchester. She serves as Chair of the Board for TheatreWorks USA, is an advisory board member of Adamah NY and a board member of UJA Federation of NY, and Earth Day Initiative. As part of her early advocacy work in international peacebuilding and justice, Tracy worked on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.









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 **UJA** Federation
NEW YORK